

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
Mission Statement**

"The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, veteran status or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness."

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
West Hartford Town Hall
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Room 217**

Minutes

Attendance

Krishna Adhikari	Present
Judith Borden, Chair	Present
Charles Cleary, Secretary	Present
Denise Jackson-Riley	Present
Pramod Prahan, Administrative Liaison	Present
Sarah Raskin	Present
Karyl Shaughnessy	Present
Barry Walters	Present
Judith Wyman Kelly	Present

There were two members of the public present.

Judy B. called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Judy K. motioned for the September minutes to be approved, and Krishna seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Judy B. asked Barry to talk about the proclamation for World AIDS Day. The proclamation will be voted on this evening by the town council. It was hoped the Commission's meeting this evening would go quickly so that commissioners could attend the town council meeting.

Judy B. reported that she had read the One Book, One Town selection. She offered to loan it to fellow commissioners. Judy K. and Pramod both reported that there will be no more One Book, One Town project.

The Park Road Parade was discussed. Judy K, Sarah, Barry, his son, & former commissioner Margaret marched with the Human Rights banner & one Hall student.

Human Rights Day is Sunday, December 10th. Sarah distributed a handout, outlining ideas for celebrating & recognizing the day. Next year will mark the 70th Anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights. Judy K. reported that this year, as usual, WH public schools are expected to have a program for Human Rights Day for all grades, K-12,

Pramod reported that the Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities (CHRO) wants to do a Human Rights Day presentation at the Faxon branch library this year on December 13th. It was suggested that the Declaration will be read as part of the event. Commissioners were asked if they would like to read a section. Sarah will organize the reading.

Denise was outraged by the racial incident at the University of Hartford that garnered national press. She felt strongly this was something that the commission needs to act on. After discussing the incident and possible responses, Judy K. volunteered to work with Denise to draft a letter. Pramod will check with the mayor to see what the protocol is for the commission to send letters, any possible legal ramifications for the town.

Judy K. reported that she had met with the sub-committee putting together Martin Luther King Day. They were working on possible speakers, using the same format as last year but perhaps with the addition of breakout sessions.

The replacement for Commissioner Andrews was discussed. The new commissioner may not be a Democrat, as all Democrat slots are filled. Names have been submitted, but none have gone to the Town Council yet, as far as we know.

Judy K. discussed a community initiative to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day and strengthen the school curriculum around Native American topics. There will be a dialogue tomorrow with parents at 4:15.

Pramod reported that the website is up with information and important resources for local immigrants, both documented and undocumented. Faxon (I think all three branches?) now has a Citizenship Corner.

Chuck, Barry & Judy K. reported that they went to the Human Services committee meeting to discuss the City of Compassion initiative. The committee members were polite and asked several questions. They suggested not having a required theme, but to leave it open from year to year. We will be notified when this is put again on their agenda.

Commissioners agreed to the following dates for 2018: January 2, March 6, May 2, June 5, September 4, November 13, and January 2, 2019.

Rinku Shrestha., a member of the public, asked to address the commission. He spoke passionately about his involvement with Donate Life New England, after his son became ill and urged Commissioners to spread the word about this organization. Judy B. thanked him for sharing his story with the commission.

With no further business, the commission adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Cleary, 11/26/17, revised 12/23/17